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## INFORMAT CONFIDENTIAL

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COUNTRY

Anglo-Egyptian Sudan

DATE DISTR. 20 Dec 1948

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SUBJECT

Breakdown of the National Front

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SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

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- 1. All efforts toward united action and the achievement of harmony among the four pro-unity parties have failed since 22 March 1966, when a Sudanese delegation departed for Cairo to press a demand for the unity of the File Velley and to safeguari the interests of the National Front. Dispute: and petty jealousies among the leaders obstructed the announced campaign of the Sudanese delegation to prevent the Sudan Administration and the Independence Front from enforcing certain constitutional reforms, and the efforts of the National Front were wasted in threats and protests. The confusion prevailing among the unionists, although not deliberately inspired by the actions of the Edministration, was intensified by the aggressive policies pursued by the Independence Front, with the tacit approval of the Sudan Government.
- 2. The rivalry of the Ashiqqa and the Unionist Parties for leadership was the mair cause of the breakdown in the National Front, but friction between the Unity of the Nile Valley Party and the Liberal-Unionist Partie contributed as well. The attempts of the Sudan Graduates' General Congress to heal the breach fulled, and division among the prounity parties remains great. The conflicting interests of the various parties and individuals resulted in June 1948 in a reshuffling of the top leadership of the Ashiqqa Party and the Graduates' Congress. The following members, who resigned, were considered to be the most important magners of these two groups:
  - Yahya Fadli, Secretary-General of the Ashiqqa Party, who was replaced by Khidr Oner.
  - b. Fahmud Fadli, Secretary-General of the Graduates' Congress, who was replaced by Eubarrak Zarruk.
  - c. Ali Hamid, Assistant Secretary of the Congress, who was replaced by 'Abd-al-Rahman Hamza.

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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- 3. In May 1948 the Ashiqqa Youth passed a resolution to present a demand to the Executive Committee of the Party to dismiss Yahya Fadli on the grounds that his actions were "despotic" and that the reputation of the Party had suffered as a result of his leadership. He was also accused of corrupt practices in connection with the granting of trade permits while he was a member of the Sudanese Delegation in Cairo. The discontent among the Ashiqqa Youth threatened to split the Party, as this group also demanded new elections for offices of the Executive Committee, and control of al-Ashiqqa. At first the committee declined to take any action, but on 29 May 1948 Yahya Fadli was ordered out of the Ashiqqa Party. Thereupon, his brother, Mahmud Fadli, and Ali Hamid resigned in protest and their colleagues withdrew temporarily from party activity; they are now attempting to return.
- In order to repair the breach between the pro-unity parties, Dardiri Ahmad Ismail, President of the Unity of the Nile Valley Party, invited representatives of all pro-unity parties to a meeting (date unspecified), in order to discuss a new formula for reconciliation which had been framed by the Graduates' Congress. The meeting was held, but the terms of reconciliation between the pro-unity parties were repudiated by the Unionist Party, which did not agree to the unity of the Nile Valley as suggested by the Ashiqqa Party and the Graduates' Congress. The other three parties agreed to the terms. The Unionist Party insisted on a separate army for the Sudan, with a joint committee to coordinate the defense of the Sudan and Egypt. Subsequently, the Unionist Party declined to participate in the Sudanese Delegation to Cairo, but promised to cooperate in "internal matters."
- 5. The Ashiqqa Party, the Unity of the Nile Valley Party, and the Liberal-Unionist Parties agreed to a proposal whereby a liaison committee would be created as a link between the Sudanese Delegation in Cairo and the pro-unity parties and the Graduates' Congress in the Sudan. Another committee would also be established to organize the "internal struggle" of all pro-unity parties in opposition to the colonization projects in the Sudan. It was explained that the period of inactivity which had followed the shelving by the United Nations of the Sudan question had enabled the Sudan Government to draw up plans calculated to prolong the condominium. The resolution of the Ashiqqa Party to come to an agreement with the other parties had been made with the realization that that party's committee structure was getting weaker every day.
- 6. The Unionist Party issued a statement explaining why the Party had refused to enter into the coalition of pro-unity parties, in which it stated that the Party wished to devote every effort to "internal activity." However, the Unionist Party's resolution not to participate in the Sudanese Delegation to Cairo was reportedly based, in addition to the reasons given above and in paragraph 4, on the fact that they wished to "avoid associating with dishonest persons in the Ashiqqa Party."
- 7. In June 1948, the Unionist Party registered an overwhelming victory over the Ashiqqa Party in elections of the Khartoum North Schools Club. To celebrate the event the Party held a meeting at their club, during which speeches were made by President Hamad Tawfiq and Secretary 'Abullah Mirghani in which they extolled the achievements of the Party. At this meeting, members of the Unionist Party ridiculed the Ashiqqa Party, an action which precipitated renswed clashes, and relations between the two parties remained tense during July and August. Dissension between the Ashiqqa and the Unity of the Nile Valley parties, and the rivalry between Ismail Azhari and Ali al-Bireir, further aggravated the situation.

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